

Glossary

Following are definitions taken from the Master List of the Petroleum Supply Division, plus definitions and/or explanations of terms used in the publication of the Weekly Petroleum Status Report (WPSR) that differ from those in the Master List. Terms used in the publication of data from the "EIA-819M Monthly Oxygenate Telephone Report" which becomes Appendix B in the WPSR are included. In addition, terms used by the Petroleum Marketing Division to collect and describe data on crude oil and petroleum product price and marketing activity are provided. Slight variations in the application of common terms used by both the Petroleum Supply and the Petroleum Marketing Divisions are in italics.

API Gravity. An arbitrary scale expressing the gravity or density of liquid petroleum products. The measuring scale is calibrated in terms of degrees API; it is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Degrees API} = \frac{141.5}{\text{sp.gr.} 60^{\circ} \text{F}/60^{\circ} \text{F}} - 131.5$$

ASTM. American Society for Testing and Materials.

Barrel. A unit of volume equal to 42 U.S. gallons.

Blending Components, Gasoline. See Motor Gasoline Blending Components.

Blending Plant. A facility which has no refining capacity but is either capable of producing finished motor gasoline through mechanical blending or blends oxygenates into motor gasoline.

Bulk Station. A facility used primarily for the storage and/or marketing of petroleum products which has a total bulk storage capacity of less than 50,000 barrels and receives its petroleum products by tank car or truck.

Bulk Terminal. A facility used primarily for the storage and/or marketing of petroleum products which has a total bulk storage capacity of 50,000 barrels or more and/or receives petroleum products by tanker, barge, or pipeline.

CIF (Cost, Insurance, Freight). This term refers to a type of sale in which the buyer of the product agrees to pay a unit price that includes the Free On Board (FOB) value of the product at the point of origin plus all costs of insurance and transportation. This type of transaction differs from a "Delivered" purchase in that the buyer accepts the quantity as determined at the loading port (as certified in the Bill of Lading and Quality Report) rather than pay based on the quantity and quality ascertained at the unloading port. It is similar to the terms of an FOB sale except that the seller, as a service for which he is compensated, arranges for transportation and insurance.

Cooling Degree-Days. The number of degrees per day the daily average temperature is above 65 degrees F. The daily average temperature is the mean of the maximum and minimum temperature for a 24-hour period.

Conventional Area. Any area not requiring the sale of either reformulated gasoline or oxygenated fuels program reformulated gasoline (OPRG). *Note:* Includes oxygenated gasoline.

Conventional Gasoline: Finished motor gasoline not included in the oxygenated or reformulated gasoline categories. *Note:* This category excludes reformulated gasoline blendstock for oxygenate blending (RBOB) as well as other blendstock

Crude Oil: A mixture of hydrocarbons that exists in liquid phase in natural underground reservoirs and remains liquid at atmospheric pressure after passing through surface separating facilities. Depending upon the characteristics of the crude stream, it may also include:

Small amounts of hydrocarbons that exist in gaseous phase in natural underground reservoirs but are liquid at atmospheric pressure after being recovered from oil well (casinghead) gas in lease separators and are subsequently commingled with the crude stream without being separately measured. Lease condensate recovered as a liquid from natural gas wells in lease or field separation facilities and later mixed into the crude stream is also included;

Small amounts of nonhydrocarbons produced with the oil, such as sulfur and various metals;

Drip gases, and liquid hydrocarbons produced from tar sands, gilsonite, and oil shale.

Liquids produced at natural gas processing plants, topped crude oil (residual) and other unfinished oils are excluded. Crude oil is refined to produce a wide array of petroleum products, including heating oils; gasoline, diesel and jet fuels; lubricants; asphalt; ethane, propane, and butane; and many other products used for their energy or chemical content.

Crude Oil Input. The total crude oil put into processing units at refineries.

Degree-Day Normals. Simple arithmetic averages of monthly or annual degree-days over a long period of time (usually the 30-year period 1961-1990). This may be simple degree-day normals or population-weighted degree-day normals.

Delivery Month. The calendar month in a futures contract in which the commodity will be delivered. The First Delivery month available at any given time is one month in the future, e.g., on September 15, the First Delivery month futures contract is October, the Second Delivery month is November, etc. On the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), crude oil contract trading terminates at the close of business on the third business day prior to the 25th calendar day of the month preceding the delivery month, while petroleum product contracts expire on the last business day of the month preceding delivery.

Distillate Fuel Oil. A general classification for one of the petroleum fractions produced in conventional distillation operations. It is used primarily for space heating, on- and off-highway diesel engine fuel (including railroad engine fuel

and fuel for agricultural machinery), and electric power generation. Included are products known as No. 1, No. 2, and No. 4 fuel oils, and No. 1, No. 2, and No. 4 diesel fuels. Distillate fuel oil is reported by two sulfur categories:

0.05% sulfur and under, for use in on-highway diesel engines which could be described as meeting EPA regulations.

Greater than 0.05% sulfur, for use in all other distillate applications.

EPA. United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Expired. Refers to the status of a futures contract when the expiration date has passed and trading for that contract terminates. For example, trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange terminates for crude oil futures contracts at the close of business on the third business day prior to the 25th calendar day of the month preceding the delivery month, while trading terminates for petroleum product contracts on the last business day of the month preceding delivery.

Exports. Shipments of goods from within the 50 States and the District of Columbia to U.S. possessions and territories or to any foreign country..

Field Production. Represents crude oil production on leases, natural gas liquids production at natural gas processing plants, new supply of other hydrocarbons/oxygenates and motor gasoline blending components, and fuel ethanol blended into finished motor gasoline.

FOB (Free On Board). Pertains to a transaction whereby the seller makes the product available within an agreed on period at a given port at a given price; it is the responsibility of the buyer to arrange for the transportation and insurance.

Fuel Ethanol (C₂H₅OH). An anhydrous denatured aliphatic alcohol intended for gasoline blending as described in the Oxygenates definition.

Futures Price. The price quoted for delivering a specified quantity of a commodity at a specified time and place in the future.

Gasoil. European designation for No. 2 fuel oil, and No. 2 diesel fuel.

Gasohol. A blend of finished motor gasoline containing alcohol (generally ethanol but sometimes methanol) at a concentration of 10 percent or less by volume. Data on gasohol that has at least 2.7 percent oxygen, by weight, and is intended for sale inside carbon monoxide nonattainment areas are included in data on oxygenated gasoline. See Oxygenates.

Gasoline: See Motor Gasoline (Finished).

Gasoline Grades: The classification of gasoline by octane ratings. Each type of gasoline (conventional, oxygenated, and reformulated) is classified by three grades -Regular, Midgrade, and Premium. *Note:* Gasoline sales are reported by grade in accordance with their classification at the time of sale. In

general, automotive octane requirements are lower at high altitudes. Therefore, in some areas of the United States, such as the Rocky Mountain States, the octane ratings for the gasoline grades may be 2 or more octane points lower. Octane requirements may vary by altitude.

Regular Gasoline: Gasoline having an antiknock index, i.e., octane rating, greater than or equal to 85 and less than 88.

Midgrade Gasoline: Gasoline having an antiknock index, i.e., octane rating, greater than or equal to 88 and less than or equal to 90.

Premium Gasoline: Gasoline having an antiknock index, i.e., octane rating, greater than 90.

Gross Inputs. The crude oil, unfinished oils, and natural gas plant liquids put into atmospheric crude oil distillation units.

Heating degree-days. A measure of how cold a location is over a period of time relative to a base temperature, most commonly specified as 65 degrees Fahrenheit. The measure is computed for each day by subtracting the average of the day's high and low temperatures from the base temperature (65 degrees), with negative values set equal to zero. Each day's heating degree-days are summed to create a heating degree-day measure for a specified reference period. Heating degree-days are used in energy analysis as an indicator of space heating energy requirements or use.

Imports. Receipts of goods into the 50 States and the District of Columbia from U.S. possessions and territories or from any foreign country.

Jet Fuel. Includes Kerosene-type (Commercial or Military) and Naphtha-type.

Kerosene-type Jet Fuel: A kerosene-based product having a maximum distillation temperature of 400 degrees Fahrenheit at the 10-percent recovery point and a final maximum boiling point of 572 degrees Fahrenheit and meeting ASTM Specification D 1655 and Military Specifications MIL-T-5624P and MIL-T-83133D (Grades JP-5 and JP-8). It is used for commercial and military turbojet and turboprop aircraft engines.

Commercial: Kerosene-type jet fuel intended for commercial use.

Military: Kerosene-type jet fuel intended for military use.

Naphtha-Type Jet Fuel: A fuel in the heavy naphtha boiling range having an average gravity of 52.8 degrees API, 20 to 90 percent distillation temperatures of 290 degrees to 470 degrees Fahrenheit, and meeting Military Specification MIL-T-5624L (Grade JP-4). It is used primarily for military turbojet and turboprop aircraft engines because it has a lower freeze point than other aviation fuels and meets engine requirements at high altitudes and speeds.

Lease Condensate. A natural gas liquid recovered from gas well gas (associated and non-associated) in lease separators or natural gas field facilities. Lease condensate consists primarily of pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons.

Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG). Ethane, ethylene, propane, propylene, normal butane, butylene, isobutane, and isobutylene produced at refineries or natural gas processing plants, including plants that fractionate raw natural gas plant liquids.

Liquefied Refinery Gases (LRG). Liquefied petroleum gases fractionated from refinery or still gases. Through compression and/or refrigeration, they are retained in the liquid state. The reported categories are ethane/ethylene, propane/propylene, normal butane/butylene, and isobutane/isobutylene. Excludes still gas.

Lower Operational Inventory (LOI). The lower operational inventory is the lower end of the demonstrated operational inventory range updated for known and definable changes in the petroleum delivery system. While not implying shortages, operational problems, or price increases, the LOI is indicative of a situation where inventory-related supply flexibility could be constrained or nonexistent. The significance of these constraints depends on local refinery capability to meet demand and the availability and deliverability of products from other regions or foreign sources.

Motor Gasoline (Finished). A complex mixture of relatively volatile hydrocarbons with or without small quantities of additives, blended to form a fuel suitable for use in spark-ignition engines. Motor gasoline, as defined in ASTM Specification D 4814 or Federal Specification VV-G-1690C, is characterized as having a boiling range of 122 to 158 degrees Fahrenheit at the 10 percent recovery point to 365 to 374 degrees Fahrenheit at the 90 percent recovery point. "Motor Gasoline" includes conventional gasoline; all types of oxygenated gasoline, including gasohol; and reformulated gasoline, but excludes aviation gasoline. *Note:* Volumetric data on blending components, such as oxygenates, are not counted in data on finished motor gasoline until the blending components are blended into the gasoline.

Reformulated Gasoline (RFG): Finished motor gasoline formulated for use in motor vehicles, the composition and properties of which meet the requirements of the reformulated gasoline regulations promulgated by the EPA under Section 211(k) of the Clean Air Act. *Note:* This category includes oxygenated fuels program reformulated gasoline (OPRG) but excludes reformulated gasoline blendstock for oxygenate blending (RBOB).

OPRG. "Oxygenated Fuels Program Reformulated Gasoline" is reformulated gasoline which is intended for use in an oxygenated fuels program control area during an oxygenated fuels program control period.

Price data are reported for areas required to sell specific types of motor gasoline.

Conventional Area: Any area not requiring the sale of either oxygenated gasoline, reformulated gasoline, or oxygenated fuels program reformulated gasoline.

RFG Area: Ozone nonattainment area designated by the EPA which requires the use of reformulated gasoline. *Note:* Includes oxygenated fuels program reformulated gasoline (OPRG).

Motor Gasoline Blending. Mechanical mixing of motor gasoline blending components, and oxygenates when required, to produce finished motor gasoline. Finished motor gasoline may be further mixed with other motor gasoline blending components or oxygenates, resulting in increased volumes of finished motor gasoline and/or changes in the formulation of finished motor gasoline (e.g., conventional motor gasoline mixed with MTBE to produce oxygenated motor gasoline).

Motor Gasoline Blending Components. Naphthas (e.g., straight-run gasoline, alkylate, reformate, benzene, toluene, xylene) used for blending or compounding into finished motor gasoline. These components include reformulated gasoline blendstock for oxygenate blending (RBOB) but exclude oxygenates (alcohols, ethers), butane, and pentanes plus. *Note:* Oxygenates are reported as individual components and are included in the total for other hydrocarbons, hydrogens, and oxygenates.

Motor Gasoline Price, Retail. See Technical Note 1.

MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether) [(CH₃)₃COCH₃]. An ether intended for gasoline blending as described in the Oxygenates definition.

Naphtha-type Jet Fuel. See Jet Fuel.

Natural Gas Liquids (NGL). Natural gas liquids recovered from natural gas in processing plants, and in some situations, from natural gas field facilities. Natural gas liquids extracted by fractionators are also included. These liquids are defined according to the published specifications of the Gas Processors Association and the ASTM and are classified as follows: ethane/ethylene, propane/propylene, normal butane/butylene, isobutane/isobutylene, and pentanes plus.

Net Production. Petroleum products produced at a refinery, natural gas processing plant, or blending plant. Published production equals production minus input. Negative production will occur when the amount of a product produced during the reporting period is less than the amount of that same product that is reprocessed (input) or reclassified to become another product during the same reporting period.

No. 2 Distillate. A petroleum distillate which meets the specifications for No. 2 heating or fuel oil as defined in ASTM D396 and/or the specifications for No. 2 diesel fuel as defined in ASTM Specification D975.

No. 2 Fuel Oil (Heating Oil). A distillate fuel oil for use in atomizing type burners for domestic heating or for medium capacity commercial-industrial burner units, with distillation temperatures between 540-640 degrees Fahrenheit at the 90-percent recovery point; and the kinematic viscosities between 1.9-3.4 centistokes at 100 degrees Fahrenheit as defined in ASTM Specification D396 -92.

No. 2 Diesel Fuel. A gasoil type distillate for use in high speed diesel engines generally operated under uniform speed and load conditions, with distillation temperatures between 540-640 degrees Fahrenheit at the 90-percent recovery point; and the kinematic viscosities between 1.9-4.1 centistokes at 100 degrees Fahrenheit as defined in ASTM specification D975 - 93. Includes Type R-R diesel fuel used for railroad locomotive engines, and Type T-T for diesel-engine trucks.

For pricing data, **Low Sulfur** or **On-Highway Diesel Fuel** is No. 2 diesel fuel which has a sulfur level less than or equal to 0.05 percent by weight. **High Sulfur** refers to No. 2 distillate fuel (either diesel or fuel oil) which has a sulfur level greater than 0.05 percent by weight.

Nonattainment Area. Any area that does not meet the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard established by the Environmental Protection Agency for designated pollutants, such as carbon monoxide and ozone.

NYMEX. The New York Mercantile Exchange.

Octane Rating: A number used to indicate gasoline's antiknock performance in motor vehicle engines. The two recognized laboratory engine test methods for determining the antiknock rating, i.e., octane rating, of gasolines are the Research method and the Motor method. To provide a single number as guidance to the consumer, the antiknock index $(R + M)/2$, which is the average of the Research and Motor octane numbers, was developed.

Operable Capacity. See Percent Utilization.

Operating Capacity. See Percent Utilization.

OPRG Area. See Motor Gasoline (Finished).

Other Finished. See Conventional Gasoline.

Other Oils. Includes aviation gasoline, kerosene, natural gas liquids, LRGs, other hydrocarbons and oxygenates, aviation gasoline blending components, naphtha and other oils for petrochemical feedstock use, special naphthas, lube oils, waxes, coke, asphalt, road oil, and miscellaneous oils.

Oxygenated Area. See Motor Gasoline (Finished).

Oxygenated Gasoline. Finished motor gasoline, other than reformulated gasoline, having an oxygen content of 2.7 percent or higher by weight. Includes gasohol. *Note:* Oxygenated gasoline excludes oxygenated fuels program reformulated gasoline (OPRG) and reformulated gasoline blendstock for oxygenate blending (RBOB).

Oxygenates. Substances which, when added to gasoline, increase the amount of oxygen in that gasoline blend. Ethanol, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE), and methanol are common oxygenates. They include:

Fuel Ethanol: Blends of up to 10 percent by volume anhydrous ethanol.

MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether): Blends of up to 15.0 percent by volume MTBE which must meet the ASTM D4814 specifications.

Other Oxygenates: Other aliphatic alcohols and aliphatic ethers intended for motor gasoline blending such as TBA, TAME, ETBE, and Methanol.

PADD (Petroleum Administration for Defense District). Originally defined during World War II for purposes of administering oil allocation, the five divisions (and three subdivisions) include the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

PADD I:

PADD IX:

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

PADD II:

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

PADD IZ:

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

PADD II:

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

PADD III:

Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Texas.

PADD IV:

Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming.

PADD V:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Percent Utilization. Represents the utilization of all crude oil distillation units. The rate is calculated by dividing gross inputs to these units by the operating/operable refining capacity of the unit.

Operable Capacity: The amount of capacity that, at the beginning of the period, is in operation; not in operation and not under active repair, but capable of being placed in operation within 30 days; or not in operation but under active repair that can be completed within 90 days. Operable capacity is the sum of the operating and idle capacity and is measured in barrels per calendar day or barrels per stream day.

Operating Capacity: The component of operable capacity that is in operation at the beginning of the period.

Petroleum Products. Petroleum products are obtained from the processing of crude oil (including lease condensate), natural gas, and other hydrocarbon compounds. Petroleum products include

unfinished oils, liquefied petroleum gases, pentanes plus, aviation gasoline, motor gasoline, naphtha-type jet fuel, kerosene-type jet fuel, kerosene, distillate fuel oil, residual fuel oil, petrochemical feedstocks, special naphthas, lubricants, waxes, petroleum coke, asphalt, road oil, still gas, and miscellaneous products.

Pipeline (Petroleum). Interstate, intrastate, and intracompany pipelines used to transport crude oil and petroleum products within the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Population-Weighted Degree-Days. Heating or Cooling degree-days weighted by the population of the area in which the degree-days are recorded. To compute the national population-weighted degree-days, the Nation is divided into nine Census regions, comprised of from three to eight States, which are assigned weights based on the ratio of the population of the region to the total population of the Nation. Degree-day readings for each region are multiplied by the corresponding population weight for each region and these products are then summed to arrive at the national population-weighted degree-day figure.

Processing Gain. The volumetric amount by which total output is greater than input for a given period of time. This difference is due to the processing of crude oil into products which, in total, have a lower specific gravity than the crude oil processed.

Product Supplied and Losses, Crude Oil. Crude oil used directly as fuel by refineries and pipelines, and losses due to spills, contamination, fires, etc. as opposed to processing losses at refineries in their operations.

Production. See Net Production.

Products Supplied. A value calculated for specific products which is equal to domestic production plus net imports (imports less exports), less the net increase in primary stocks. Total products supplied is calculated as inputs to refineries, plus estimated refinery gains, plus other hydrocarbon input, plus product imports, less product exports, less the net increase (or decrease) in product stocks. Values shown for "Other Oils" product supplied are the difference between Total Products Supplied and product supplied values for specified products.

Propane (C₃H₈). A normally gaseous straight-chain hydrocarbon. It is a colorless paraffinic gas that boils at a temperature of -43.67 degrees F. It is extracted from natural gas or refinery gas streams. It includes all products designated in ASTM Specification D1835 and Gas Processors Association Specifications for commercial propane and HD-05 propane. *For price data*, it does not include the propane portion of any natural gas liquids (NGL) mixes; i.e., butane-propane and ethane-propane mix.

Propylene (C₃H₆). An olefinic hydrocarbon recovered from refinery processes or petrochemical processes.

RBOB. "Reformulated Gasoline Blendstock for Oxygenate Blending" is a motor gasoline blending component which, when blended with a specified type and percentage of oxygenate, meets the definition of reformulated gasoline.

Refiner Acquisition Cost of Crude Oil. The average price paid by refiners for crude oil booked into their refineries in accordance with accounting procedures generally accepted and consistently and historically applied by refiners. Domestic crude oil is that oil produced in the United States or from the outer continental shelf as defined in 43 USC 1131. Imported crude oil is any crude oil that is not domestic oil. The composite is the weighted average price of domestic and imported crude oil. Prices do not include the price of crude oil for the SPR.

Refinery. An installation that manufactures finished petroleum products from crude oil, unfinished oils, natural gas liquids, other hydrocarbons, and oxygenates.

Reformulated Area. See Motor Gasoline (Finished).

Reformulated Gasoline. See Motor Gasoline (Finished).

Residential. Sales of No. 2 distillate and propane to individual customers or households (as opposed to businesses or institutions) who ostensibly use the fuel in a residence for space heating, cooking, etc. Sales to apartment buildings/complexes or to other multi-family dwellings are excluded from the "Residential Sales" category and are included in the "Commercial/Institutional Sales" category. Additional end-use sales category data are available in the *Petroleum Marketing Monthly*.

Residential Heating Oil Price. The price charged for home delivery of No.2 heating oil, exclusive of any discounts such as those for prompt cash payment. Prices do not include taxes paid by the consumer.

Residential Propane Price. The price charged for home delivery of consumer grade propane intended for use in space heating, cooking, or hot water heaters in residences.

Residual Fuel Oil. The heavier oils that remain after the distillate fuel oils and lighter hydrocarbons are distilled away in refinery operations and that conform to ASTM Specification D396. Included are a No. 5, a residual fuel oil of medium viscosity; Navy Special fuel oil as defined in Military Specification MIL-F-859E including Amendment 2 (NATO Symbol F-77), for use in steam-powered vessels in government service and in shore power plants; No. 6, which includes Bunker C fuel oil and is used for commercial and industrial heating, the production of electric power, vessel bunkering, and various industrial purposes. *For supply data*, imports of residual fuel oil include imported crude oil burned as fuel. *For pricing data*, imported crude oil burned as fuel is excluded.

Retail. Sales made directly to the consumer of a product.

Retail Outlet. Any company-owned outlet (e.g. service station) selling gasoline, on-highway low-sulfur diesel fuel, or propane for on-highway vehicle use which is under the direct control of the firm by virtue of its ability to set the retail product price and directly collect all or part of the retail margin. This category includes retail outlets which are operated by salaried employees of the company and/or its subsidiaries and affiliates, and/or involve personnel services contracted by the firm.

Spot Price. The price for a one-time open market transaction for immediate delivery of a specific quantity of product at a specific

location where the commodity is purchased “on the spot” at current market rates.

Brent: A blended crude stream produced in the North Sea region which serves as a reference or “marker” for pricing a number of other crude streams.

Conway: The location specified in either spot or futures contracts for delivery of propane in Conway, Kansas.

Los Angeles: The location specified in either spot or futures contracts for delivery of a product in any port city in southern California.

Mont Belvieu: The location specified in either spot or futures contracts for delivery of propane in Mont Belvieu, Texas.

New York Harbor (NYH): The location specified in either spot or futures contracts for delivery of a product in New York Harbor.

Northwest Europe (NWE): The location specified in either spot or futures contracts for delivery of a product in any port city along the North Sea; however, generally refers to the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp refining center.

Rotterdam (ARA): The location specified in either spot or futures contracts for delivery of a product in any port city along the refining centers of Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp.

Singapore: The location specified in either spot or futures contracts for delivery of a product in Singapore.

US Gulf Coast (GC): The location specified in either spot or futures contracts for delivery of a product in any port city along the coastline of Texas and Louisiana. For supply data, Gulf Coast refers to all 6 PADD III States.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI - Cushing): A crude stream produced in Texas and southern Oklahoma which serves as a reference or “marker” for pricing a number of other crude streams and which is traded in the domestic spot market at Cushing, Oklahoma.

Stocks. For individual products in the WPSR, quantities held at refineries, in pipelines (including storage tanks), and at bulk terminals which have a capacity of 50,000 barrels or more, and all individual products in transit thereto. Stocks held by product retailers and resellers, as well as tertiary stocks held at the point of consumption are excluded. Stocks held at gas processing plants are excluded from individual product estimates but included in “Other Oils” estimates and “Total”. Stocks are reported as of the end of the reporting period.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). Petroleum stocks maintained by the Federal Government for use during periods of major supply interruption.

Sulfur. A yellowish nonmetallic element, sometimes known as “brimstone.” It is present at various levels of concentration in many fossil fuels whose combustion releases sulfur compounds that are considered harmful to the environment. Some of the most commonly used fossil fuels are categorized according to their sulfur content, with lower sulfur fuels usually selling at a higher price. *Note:* No. 2 Distillate fuel is currently reported as having either a 0.05 percent or lower sulfur level for on-highway vehicle use or a greater than 0.05 percent sulfur level for off-highway use, home heating oil, and commercial and industrial uses. Residual fuel, regardless of use, is classified as having either no more than 1 percent sulfur or greater than 1 percent sulfur. Coal is also classified as being low-sulfur at concentrations of 1 percent or less or high-sulfur at concentrations greater than 1 percent.

Unaccounted for Crude Oil. A term which appears in the U.S. Petroleum Balance Sheet. It reconciles the difference between crude input to refineries and the sum of domestic production, net imports (including SPR), SPR and other stocks withdrawn or added, and product supplied and losses. Its value can be positive or negative since it is a balancing term. Because the unaccounted-for crude oil figure incorporates both estimated and reported values, one would expect the figure to be larger in balances using preliminary or estimated data and smaller in balances using final data. In fact, the published figures confirm this expectation. In the WPSR, 4-week averages for the previous year are interpolated from final monthly data, so that the unaccounted-for crude oil value for the previous year is considerably smaller than that for the current period.

Unfinished Oils. Includes all oils requiring further processing, except those requiring only mechanical blending.

United States. The 50 States and the District of Columbia. *Note:* The United States has varying degrees of jurisdiction over a number of territories and other political entities outside the 50 States and the District of Columbia, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Johnston Atoll, Midway Islands, Wake Island, and the Northern Mariana Islands. EIA data programs may include data from some or all of these areas in U.S. totals. *Note:* For crude oil prices, the United States includes the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and all American Territories and Possessions.

Wholesale. Sales of refined petroleum products to purchasers who are other than ultimate consumers.

Wholesale Price. The rack price charged for No. 2 heating oil or propane; that is, the price paid by customers who purchase No. 2 heating oil or propane free-on-board at a supplier’s terminal and who provide their own transportation for the product(s).